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REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

HOFFMAN'S STATISTICAL STUDY OF THE NEGRO.

Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro, by Frederick L. Hoffman, *Publications of the American Economic Association*, Vol. XI, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, August, 1896.

This is the first attempt on the part of a competent statistician to deal with the vital and social statistics of the negro race in the United States. It is a most thorough and painstaking compilation. Mr. Hoffman divides his considerations into separate investigations under the heads Population, Vital Statistics, Anthropometry, Race Amalgamation, Social Conditions and Tendencies, and Economic Condition and Tendencies.

Concerning the first of these, dealing with Population, he reaches conclusions very different from those generally held by those who have discussed the subject on *a priori* grounds. The general impression has been that the colored population was increasing at a rate greater than that of the whites, owing both to the greater number of children born and also to the fact that all children of a mixed race were counted as blacks. From such a condition of affairs it would naturally be assumed that the race to which all half-breeds were credited would, especially if prolific, rapidly gain upon the other race. So firm a hold did this opinion have on many students of the subject that every one of them who estimated the future colored population from data obtained from the census has made an over-estimate, as compared with the number actually found by succeeding censuses. This is true from the time of Darby, who estimated in 1828 that by 1900 there would be a population of 25,825,878 blacks, to that of Professor Gilliam, who, within a few years, estimated that there would be 12,000,000. The census of 1890 showed the presence of only 7,470,040; and at the rate of growth since 1860, the population in 1900 will not be more than 8,500,000. According to the census of 1860, the colored population at that time amounted to 14.13 per cent of the entire population, while now it amounts to only 11.93 per cent, which may be partly accounted for by the cessation of negro

immigration and the large increase in white immigration. It is found, however, that during the same period the proportion of whites increased in seven out of thirteen southern states, while in the census period from 1880 to 1890 the proportion of colored persons to whites increased in only two southern states, Mississippi and Arkansas. Mr. Hoffman also demonstrates that this is neither due to the white immigration into these states, nor to any decided colored emigration. It is shown also that the native white population, in at least five states for which statistics exist, is increasing more rapidly than the native colored population.

The tendency of the negroes to migrate into the cities is observed. In the 14 largest cities of 10 southern states in 1860 only 18.85 per cent of the population was colored, while 36 per cent of the population in those states, at large, was colored. In 1890 these states contained 16 large cities with 29.08 per cent colored, while in the total population the total colored was 25.96 per cent. The increase of the proportion of the colored population in the cities is very much greater than that of the whites. In 1860, 11.67 per cent of the whites lived in these large cities, which percentage increased during 30 years to only 14.89 per cent. In 1860 but 4.82 per cent of the colored population was in these cities, which increased to 10.93 per cent in 1890. The migratory tendency was more pronounced during the last decade of the period than previously. In these cities, and especially in the cities of the north and west, as the author says, "the negroes are crowded into a very few wards," and these, "as a rule, are the most undesirable sections of the cities." In Chicago, for instance, 63.90 per cent lived in three wards which, at the same time, contained only 6.3 per cent of the white population. Mrs. Florence Kelly, factory inspector of Illinois, in the work entitled *Hull House Maps and Papers*, shows that "the section inhabited almost exclusively by colored persons is also the section which contains all the houses of ill-fame in this part of the city."

The author also shows that in many states the colored population in the country is actually decreasing, as, for instance, in Missouri in 74 out of 115 counties, from 1880 to 1890.

Under the head of Vital Statistics it is argued that, while probably the birth rate is higher among the negroes than among the whites, the mortality is so much higher as to more than offset the higher birth

rate. The author, for instance, shows that in Alabama, where the negroes have been supposed to be especially prolific, the ratio of births to deaths among the whites has been 2.96 to one, while among the negroes it has been but 2.06 to one. He finds that in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts the deaths among the colored population had exceeded the births. He finds that the death rate in 10 cities of the south has averaged 20.12 per cent among the whites and 32.61 among the negroes. He also makes comparison of the death rate at various age groups among whites and negroes in the six cities of New York, Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, showing that the excess of mortality on the part of the colored race exists at practically all ages. The difference is enormous at ages under 15. It is also found upon closer examination that the mortality before completion of the first year, and also at ages one to five, is much greater among the negroes than among the whites. In Richmond, for instance, over one-half of the negro children die under one year of age.

It is very frequently assumed that the higher mortality among the negroes is owing to unsanitary environment. It is found, however, that the unfavorable mortality on the part of the colored population persists in the cities of Washington and Baltimore, without regard either to the altitude above sea level or the density of the population.

Mr. Hoffman makes a very thorough investigation of the question whether the negro mortality has been increasing or decreasing since the liberation of the slaves. He finds that negro mortality has, at least, not diminished, and has probably increased in most southern cities, while there has been a large decrease in white mortality. He gives a very interesting table of comparative expectations of life for whites and negroes in four southern cities, according to the census of 1880. This shows an average expectation of from 38 to 42 years for whites, and from 22 to 25 years for negroes, calculated from birth.

As to the causes of excessive mortality he finds that there are from 50 to 100 per cent more premature births than among the whites, and about twice the number of deaths under one year of age from debility. Intestinal diseases carry off also nearly twice as many under the age of five. He also finds that, while consumption has been decreasing in fatality among the whites, it has been rapidly increasing among the negroes. This is contrary to the accepted opinion, but it is sus-

tained by such a mass of statistics, scarcely contradictory in a single instance, that there seems to be no excuse to dispute the conclusion. He finds that during the war the mortality among whites was 53.48 per thousand, while among the negroes the rate was 143.40. Consumption carried off nearly three times as large a proportion of the colored troops as of the whites. Similar statistics have been obtained from the West Indies and other localities where blacks abound. Statistics taken from the census of 1890 for 14 American cities show a similar disproportion of deaths by consumption among the negroes. This is the case at all ages. A similar predisposition toward pneumonia is also found, the mortality ranging from two to more than four times as great as that among the whites. Scrofula and venereal diseases are also very much more common and more fatal, a condition of affairs which has practically grown up since the war.

The author believes that the general presumption that the negroes are comparatively immune from malarial diseases is a mistake. The evidence that this ever was the case is very slight and by no means conclusive. It certainly is no longer the case. During the war it was found that these fevers were much more prevalent among the negroes than among the whites. Statistics now prove beyond question that the death rate among the blacks because of malarial and typhoid fevers is much higher than among the whites. A comparative immunity against yellow fever is conceded to have existed and also to exist at present, but probably in a less degree. No immunity from small-pox is discoverable, but the death rate from this disease is not large enough to greatly influence the mortality. There is no doubt that the negro children are less subject to measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and croup. Deaths from diseases attending child-birth are about the same in the two races, except as to puerperal disorders, where the negro death rate is very high, owing to want of cleanliness and proper medical attendance. An investigation as to the mortality by cancer is not conclusive. Alcoholism, which was at one time decidedly less prevalent among the negroes than among the whites, appears now to have increased until it is both more prevalent and more fatal. This is indicated also by an excessive mortality from liver diseases among negroes under 45. The connection between liver diseases and the use of alcohol is well known. Insanity is said to be less prevalent among the negroes than among the whites, and

also to be decreasing in both races. Mortality among the colored insane, however, is said to be higher than among whites. Suicide is found to be very rare among the negroes. As the author states, "The general conclusion is that the negro is subject to a higher mortality at all ages, but especially so at the early age periods."

Under the head of Anthropometry the author gives an interesting series of statistics, showing that, notwithstanding this tendency toward consumption and respiratory difficulties, the negro is on the average heavier in proportion to his height than the white. From data obtained from measurement of recruits for the United States army it was found that, while the negro showed an average chest expansion as good or better than the whites, in the civil war period, the colored troops at this time show decidedly less expansion. It has also been demonstrated that the lung capacity of the negro in proportion to height is considerably less than that of the whites. This is also indicated by the fact that the blacks on an average show a higher number of respirations per minute than do the whites.

Under the head of Race Amalgamation we find the theory, so often put forth, that the negro is being elevated to a higher type by such amalgamation, completely overthrown. The author, after an examination of others' theories, shows, first, that the tendency of the race is not toward amalgamation by lawful marriage, which is evidenced primarily by the congregation of the negroes in the worst sections of the cities; and, second, that intermarriages in a number of states for which statistics exist have not increased. This is also true for Bermuda and the West Indies. On the contrary, he discovers that, while illegitimate births among the whites have not increased, in Washington, D. C., for example, they have increased among the blacks from 17.06 per cent to 26.05 per cent in only five years, and now stand at ten times the percentage of illegitimacy among the whites. He also reports the result of a careful investigation on his own part of 37 mixed marriages, eight being white men living with colored women, and 29 white women living with colored men. Of these he finds but one in which there is clear proof that the marriage was fairly successful. Most of them were unions of people of grossly criminal or immoral character.

The author discusses the statistics of religion, education, crime, pauperism, and immorality under the head of Social Conditions and

Tendencies. He shows that a very large proportion of the negro population are members of Christian churches, there being, according to the census of 1890, 2,673,977 communicants, of which more than one-half are Baptists. Most of the others are Methodists. There is one communicant to every 2.79 per cent of the negro population, while among the whites there is but one to every 3.04 per cent. There has been a much larger increase in attendance of colored pupils at school than in the attendance of whites, and now about the same percentage of negro children of school age attend school as of whites. There are a large number of institutions for higher education which are liberally attended.

The proportion of negro criminals to the entire number of criminals is stated to be 29.38 per cent, while the proportion of negro population was but 10.20 per cent for males. The disproportion of colored persons among those charged with crimes against the person is still greater, being 38.21 per cent for men and 56.10 per cent for women. The author finds that nearly 41 per cent of those convicted of rape were negroes, and nearly 40 per cent of those convicted for assault. In the penitentiaries of Pennsylvania, in 1894, 16.61 per cent of the males were black, and 34.61 per cent of the females, while but little over 2 per cent of the population, were black. A similar disproportion is discovered in New Jersey and in other states and cities. Data from police reports show that, with but 1.3 per cent of the total population in several large cities, the negroes have contributed 9.8 per cent to the total arrests. No other race in the table contributes anything like such a disproportion. As an illustration of the low morality existing among the negroes the statistics of illegitimacy in Washington are again quoted, as also the statistics of Mobile and Knoxville, fortified with those of Jamaica. Pauperism is also found to be more common among the negroes than among the whites.

The comparative value of the negro as a productive laborer is discussed under the head of Economic Condition and Tendencies. It is found that, so far as farm labor is concerned, especially in the production of tobacco, rice, and cotton, the negroes are not proving as valuable and productive as under the system of slavery. It is also fairly demonstrated that they are not as good laborers as whites. There is likewise little, if any, evidence of improvement. The necessity for constant supervision of negro laborers is considered a grave draw-

back to their efficiency. The weight of evidence seems to be that the education of the negro up to the present time has not increased his value as a laborer, nor induced him to enter, with fair prospects for success, occupations requiring skilled labor. As a result of his comparative inefficiency, he commands but about 80 per cent of the wages given whites working in the same capacity. Proprietors of mills and factories in the south do not pronounce favorable opinions as to the employment of negroes. Even in northern cities, where abundant opportunities are given, it is found that, outside of domestic employment and the quasi-domestic employments of barbers, coachmen, hostlers, and waiters, comparatively few engage at skilled labor. A comparison with the Indians living on New York reservations is decidedly favorable to the Indians. Such statistics as are available on the subject of the accumulation of property by the negroes do not indicate that they are gaining at a very rapid rate. The assessed valuation per capita of their property ranges from one-twentieth to one-fortieth of the assessed valuation of property held by whites. There is evidence, however, that they are gradually increasing their holdings of farms, as evidenced by acreage instead of value, in some states.

The conclusion of the author, from the statistics before him, and also from the analogies of other inferior races which have come in contact with the whites, is "that the tendencies of the colored race are now downward and toward extinction, and can only be arrested by radical and far-reaching changes in their moral nature."

MILES MENANDER DAWSON.

INFANT MORTALITY IN PRUSSIA.

Kindersterblichkeit sozialer Bevölkerungsgruppen insbesondere im preussischen Staate und seiner Provinzen. In Beiträge zur Geschichte der Bevölkerung in Deutschland seit dem Anfange dieses Jahrhunderts. By Dr. Seutemann. Tübingen, 1894.

In 1877 the Prussian Statistical Bureau further improved their valuable registration methods by regularly classifying statistical data of births and deaths according to social classes, and the results for infant mortality are embodied in this valuable work. About one-